

**Summer 2013**



***An honorary society dedicated to the fun of snowmobiling***



(l-r) President Tom Anderson, Ross Antworth, Kay Lloyd  
Rose Antworth receiving his Iron Dog credentials from Kay Lloyd  
at the Annual Iron Dog Banquet

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Did You Know??

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Who are the new "pups" of 2013?

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Winner of the prestigious George Eisenhuth Distinguished Service Award

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ISC wrap-up & pictures



Check out the Iron Dog website @ [www.irondogbrigade.com](http://www.irondogbrigade.com)

# President's Report



Tom Anderson

Hello fellow Dogs,

Congress 2013 is history and we had a great time in Green Bay (home of the World Champion Green Bay Packers....well a couple of years ago, anyway) and once again we were able to reconnect with a lot of friends we only get to see once a year.

The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs ran a good show and kept us all busy with meetings and meetings and more meetings. Our off-site trip to Lambeau Field, home of the World Champ...(OK been there already) was fun. A visit to any professional sports stadium is interesting.

Our Annual Meeting this year was a four hour session with the handling of many usual topics like acceptance of Secretary and Treasurer Reports. Also the auditing committee report and election ballot report.

The only office up for election this year was that of Secretary-Treasurer held by John Mitchell. John was the only person on the ballot and was re-elected for another two year term.

Next year will see the office of President, Vice-President and one Director up for election. The office of Past President is likely to also change. In February, I will announce a nominating committee to search for those interested in those positions. Deadline to file for the position is April 30. Electioneering will continue from then until the election at the Congress in Colorado in June.

A major change in the by-laws was voted and approved regarding eligibility for IDB offices. Now, any member in good standing for

a period of 10 consecutive years is eligible for any IDB office.

I would hope that we have some good natured election campaigns in place before and during the Congress to spice up the elections. Remember, we are "An honorary society dedicated to the fun of snowmobiling", so let's keep it fun.

Also new is a proposal by Bruno Andreini to have IDB logo decals made up with your name included in the logo. You could put them on your sled, car, briefcase, etc. Look for more from Bruno on this soon.

Jack Sheets reviewed the IDB website with some updates. Check us out at: [www.irondogbrigade.com](http://www.irondogbrigade.com) and use "pups" to get into the members side of the site.

One of our newest pups, Gail Hanson, received the prestigious George Eisenhuth Distinguished Service Award. See more about this on page 9.

Two other Dogs are getting long-overdue awards are Jerry Wanty and Bob Linn. Both are being

inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame in Eagle River, WI on September 14th. Bob's wife will also be joining him as they are going in as a couple.

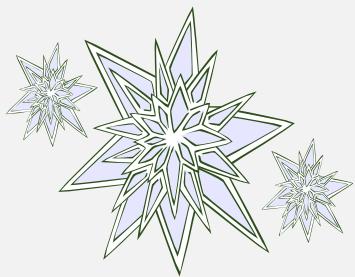
Congratulations to them for many years of service to the sport of snowmobiling. They join an elite group of people, many of whom are Iron Dogs, who have dedicated a major portion of their lives to the sport,

Hope your summer has been enjoyable and that this year's winter will bring lots of snow for us to enjoy.

Check out the IDB Winter Rides elsewhere in this newsletter. It's always more fun to ride with good friends and what can be friendlier than an old Dog?

Think Snow....

Tom



# Did You Know?

- World Wide Sales Jumped 12% - A long lasting winter and continued enthusiasm and interest in snowmobiling powered snowmobile sales to increase worldwide to 144,601 new sleds sold this past year. This is an increase of over 15,000 units, which is a 12 percent gain from last year. Sales in the United States were flat at 48,536 new snowmobiles sold, while sales in Canada rose over 8 percent to 44,022 new sleds sold.
- The average age of a snowmobiler this past season was determined to be 43 years of age. The average age increased slightly due to the fact that many younger adults are struggling to pay off school loans and are struggling due to the slower growth of the economy.
- Surveys conducted by ISMA have shown that slightly over 70% of first-time buyers in the snowmobile market purchased a used snowmobile. Many of them are young adults and they move on to purchase a new snowmobile later in life.
- The majority of snowmobilers in North America are Club members and/or Association-Federation members (over 50%). These active, involved, outdoor enthusiasts build the trails and support snowmobiling access. Snowmobilers are also active charity fundraisers who raised over \$3.4 million dollars for National Charities last year.

## GOT NEWS ? ?

Send your “news” to  
[\*\*pyroboss@metrocast.net\*\*](mailto:pyroboss@metrocast.net)  
**(Gail Hanson)**

- The snowmobile industry reports an increase in registered snowmobiles in North America to approximately 2 million registered sleds.
- Additional surveys have found that snowmobilers are active in many outdoor activities. Many snowmobilers are also boaters, motorcycle riders, camping enthusiasts, hunting enthusiasts and general outdoor recreational activity participants.

### Snowmobilers OTHER recreational pursuits:

- 54% Boating
- 48% Camping
- 39% ATV Riding
- 28% Motorcycle Riding
- 23% Hiking
- 22% Golfing
- 12% PWC Riding
- 11% Skiing



# Report of the Secretary

June 7, 2013

## ***Secretary Report as presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting***

This has been a fairly normal year with some activities going on as planned, and plenty of snow in the West to get some riding done. Because of conflicts with work, I was unable to attend the West Yellowstone ride this January.

The Iron Dogs were well represented at the planning meeting by Tom Anderson and we are set up for the banquet on Friday evening. There are eighty signed up for dinner which is an excellent increase over the past couple of years.

At this point we have 123 members, with the death of Bill Oakes and Robert Budig dropping his membership and Charles Case being reactivated by board decision. We have five applicants this year, and they will be at the dinner on Friday evening. An updated roster of all of the members including our new pups is furnished for the board and members. We have at this time 101 active members, 2 honorary members, and 20 associate members (not including new pups). Ten members are delinquent and all have been sent reminders that their dues are now due, compared to fifteen at this time last year. We have no delinquents from 2012 as all of those reported last year caught up their dues.

The only ballot sheet sent out this year was for Auditor and the George Eisenhuth Award and a majority of the ballots were returned. Dale Vagts was reaffirmed as auditor by ballot.

Dale Vagts reported on the balloting for the George Eisenhuth Award which will be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening. After receiving the name from Dale, the award was printed and framed. The George Eisenhuth Award for distinguished service to snowmobiling was presented to Miriam E. "Mitzi" Oakes at the 44th International Snowmobile Congress in Sturbridge, MA.

There are five new pups this year: Gail Hanson, Belmont, NH, sponsored by Bonnie Holbrook, Charles Kurtz and Harold Case; Ross Antworth, Lower Kingclear, New Brunswick, sponsored by Kay Lloyd; Lawrence S. Herzog, Great Falls, MT., sponsored by Bill Howell; Douglas A. Johnson, Amery, WI., sponsored by Bill Schumann; Andrew Malecki, Jr., Green Bay, WI., sponsored by Orv Langohr. Membership Chairman Jerry Hanson advised that they were accepted by those returning the rating sheets. All five will be in attendance at the banquet on Friday evening.

A donation of \$100.00 was made to the memorial for Bill Oakes. Bill's memorial was to PACE, VT., which serves seniors in the Colchester, VT area.

Flags, shirts, hats and bolo ties are available here at Congress from either Bill Schumann or myself.

I cannot thank Bonnie Holbrook enough for keeping the brigade informed of happenings this past year as well as putting together the banquet programs, the new pup certificates and arranging for the names tags. Also special thanks to Tom Anderson for all his help and advice this past year especially with the setting up of the Congress meeting and dinner.

Respectfully submitted,  
John M. Mitchell  
Secretary / Treasurer

# Five new pups inducted into Iron Dog Brigade at Wisconsin Congress

## Gail Hanson

Sponsored by Harold Case, Charles Kurtz, Bonnie Holbrook



Gail lives in Belmont, NH with her husband Peter and is the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association.

Gail's more memorable event is representing snowmobiling in New Hampshire during a campaign event for President George W. Bush where she was able to spend the day with the President at the event.

Her most fun filled event involves a lot of hard work helping to put on the "Race into Winter" Grass Drags and Water Cross held on Columbus Day Weekend and is a major fundraiser for the association.

She considers it an honor to serve as the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association not only as the first woman to serve but also to be involved in all aspects of the sport.

Gail serves on the State Park Commission being named by the Governor to the commission to study the mission of the state park system and the Division of Park and Recreation.

She was awarded the 2006 State Trail Advocacy Award in recognition of her outstanding and successful efforts for public policies supporting trail recreation, planning, protection, development, and maintenance in the State of New Hampshire.

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## Douglas A. Johnson

Sponsored by Bill Schuman



Douglas is from Amery, WI, and lives there with his wife Patti. He is retired from the Army and is now serving as the President of the Wisconsin State Snowmobile Association.

His earliest memories of snowmobiling is when a friend of his Dad's brought a snowmobile out to their rural farm country to ride, his Bolens Diablo Rogue and Doug's family members would tour the countryside on that machine.

Doug has been a member of the Amery Snowmobile Club since 1990 and has worked on many committees and is also a member of the Polk County Snowmobile Council where he has served as treasurer and director to A W S C.

He is a certified Snowmobile Safety Instructor for the Wisconsin DNR and has helped over 450 students graduate their safety course.

He was appointed to the Wisconsin State Trails Council in November 2011 by Governor Walker.

Douglas is also involved in tourism assisting in promoting many local events including the Wisconsin Governor's Fishing Opener and charity events including the Wisconsin MS Snowmobile Tour for the last five years helping to raise money to fight Multiple Sclerosis.

## Ross Antworth

Sponsored by Kay Lloyd



Ross is the General Manager for the New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, and has held the position for 16 years.

Ross has been snowmobiling since 1972 when his father brought home a new Chaparral Firebird and he has not missed a winter snowmobiling or gone any length of time without thinking about when winter will arrive.

Ross has been a member of the Keswick River Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club since 1993 and has served as president. He is also a member of the Nickelie Sno-Drifters and the New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations since 1997 representing NBFSC. Additionally, he serves as the New Brunswick representative with the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators and had the privilege of serving as Chair and was also the first Canadian to hold this position in the history of IASA.

Ross finds himself very fortunate that he is able to combine snowmobiling with work and fun and has been able to travel for work to multiple states and provinces including Wyoming (Yellowstone), Newfoundland and Labrador (Gras Marne National Park).

When he was a club president back in the mid-1990s he convinced key volunteers to go on a province-wide New Brunswick tour for a week of fun. This tour continues to this day and is known at the "Nike Tour" which gets a bunch of friends together each year to have fun and enjoy each other's company.

Ross's accomplishments as General Manager are numerous and are categorized as financial support, legislative changes and tourism and industry recognition. Some of those actions include mandatory personal liability insurance requirement, mandatory trail permit legislation, centralization and modernization of trail permit sales, various trail permit types, securing first trail groomer funding, and dedicated trail enforcement.

Along with these accomplishments came many awards, which include ISMA's National "Safe Riders Campaign Award, Tourism Industry Association's Pioneer Award presented by the Minister of Tourism, and the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators Professional Excellence Award presented to Ross by his peers.

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## DID YOU KNOW ? . . . . .

The average snowmobiler rides their snowmobile 920 miles per year in North America.

## George Eisenthuth Distinguished Service Award goes to Gail Hanson

### Lawrence Scott Herzog

Sponsored by Bill Howell



Lawrence lives in Great Falls, MT with his wife Mary and works at Glacier State Electric Co.

Lawrence started snowmobiling as a child when his family would spend the weekends riding the areas around his Grandparents cabin. One of his most memorable activities is riding in Yellowstone with his family and girlfriend (now his wife) and watching all the animals.

He has been involved with the Great Falls Snowmobile Club since 1990 and has served as Director, Chairman of the Board, and President of the Board. He also belongs to and is active in the Meagher County Little Belt Snowmobile Club, Kings Hill Grooming Association and the Montana Snowmobile Association.

He is currently serving as President of the Montana Snowmobile Association.

Lawrence has worked with the Forest Service to promote snowmobiling and outdoor recreation, and also to promote dual grooming with the Cross Country Ski Club. He continues to assist with search and rescue and has held many offices within that association and is a volunteer for the Newhart Volunteer Fire Department where he is Chief.

### Andrew Malecki, Jr.

Sponsored by Orv Langohr



Andrew is from Green Bay, WI and is with the Green Bay Fire Department as a Captain.

He started snowmobiling in 1973 and considers being involved with club sponsored rides for special needs people one of his more memorable activities.

Andrew has been club treasurer, Secretary/Treasurer, County AWSC Director, and was appointed to the Governor's Snowmobile Council. He has also published the club newsletter for 24 years and been a member of the AWSC Legislative Committee and County Alliance Snow Patrol as well as worked on club sponsored food pantries and road cleanup crews.



She has been described as one who "gets things done", and is known by many legislators and greeted by name as she travels around the state

Gail was appointed by the Governor to the State Park Commission in 2006, whose mission was to study the park system and the Division of Parks and Recreation. In 2006 she was awarded the State Trail Advocacy Award in recognition of outstanding and successful advocacy efforts for public policies supporting trail recreation, planning, protection, development and maintenance.

In 2009 Easter Seals awarded her an Appreciation Award for her long standing commitment to Camp SnoMo and the Easter Seals Ride-In, which provides camping and recreation programs for the families and children that the camp serves.

She represented snowmobiling during a campaign event for President George W. Bush where she was able to spend the day with the President.

Her most fun filled event involves a lot of hard work helping to put on the "Race Into Winter" Grass Drags and Water Cross held on Columbus Day Weekend, this event is the major fund raiser for the association.

She considers it an honor to serve as the Executive Director of her Snowmobile Association, not only as the first woman to serve but also to be involved in all aspects of the sport.

George Eisenthuth's legacy with the Iron Dogs lives on each year with the presentation of the George Eisenthuth Distinguished Service Award. This year winner is Gail Hanson of New Hampshire

Gail started out her career as a volunteer on the club level where she was secretary for more than eight years. But for the past eleven years she has been the Executive Director of her state association, becoming involved in all aspects of snowmobiling from trail grooming to web-sites.

She is credited with the passage of major legislation that makes belonging to a snowmobile club a cost saving measure for members purchasing trail permits which not only increased club membership, but also enhanced trail grooming because of increased funding. She has worked closely with Fish and Game, has a professional relationship with the association's lobbyist, prepares testimony for legislative hearings, and assists with coordinating and planning all association conferences, events, fund raisers and workshops.

Gail is also the editor for the association newspaper and advises the association's volunteer President and Board of Directors.

# 2013 ISC Happenings



Iron Dogs Annual Duties!!

Checking for admission passes. Dave Carmichael being a problem.....Again!



Iron Dog Marilyn Ruediger and her son, David, have their photo taken with Ron Ruediger's Induction into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame plaque.



Jason and Bill Howell enjoying their trip to the World Snowmobile Headquarters



Joann Smith and Marlys Knuston announced that \$46,865 has been raised for charity from the Thirsty Dogs!!



Roger Lampitt auctioning off 2014 Eagle River Derby package, that included a weekend admission for two and a weekend admission to the World Snowmobile Headquarters viewing suite.



Congratulations  
Duane Sutton!!

ASCA New President



Dogs rode 45,000 miles this past winter!!



Got News????  
Please send it to Gail @  
[pyroboss@metrocast.net](mailto:pyroboss@metrocast.net)

## More from the Congress Cameras....

Photos by Tom Anderson



Gail Hanson practicing her NEW job as editor of the Dog Tags News Letter!!

A special **Thank You** to "Top Dog Tom" for all of his hard work over the years in creating, editing and mailing the Dog Tags!



Ed Skomoroh - Master of Ceremonies



Todd Wilkinson with his signature cowboy hat!



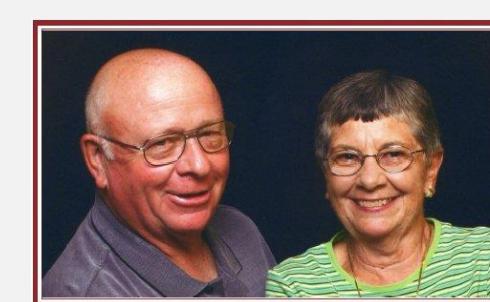
Dale Vagts trying to get a free drink from a bartender at the banquet



Good Food at the Iron Dog Banquet!!



**2013 Iron Dogs inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame**



**Bob and Marie Linn**

Ever since 1976 this couple has been front and center for snowmobiling in Minnesota. They both epitomize the term "volunteer" with their tireless devotion and commitment to promoting safe and enjoyable snowmobiling on many levels of the sport. Highlights of these past 37 years include:

Bob has served three terms as Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association (MnUSA) President, 12 years on the Board of Directors, 10 years as Region V President, Chair of MnUSA Raffle and Membership, Publications, Trail, Legislative, By-Laws and Merchandise Committees. He

was awarded the 2011 Snowmobiler of the Year by MnUSA and the 2012 Snowmobiler of the Year by the American Council of Snowmobile Associations.

Marie has been a Safety Instructor for 18 years, 25+ years as local club Secretary, head of the ISC Charity and Awards Committee for MnUSA for 17 years and has served on numerous MnUSA committees during this time.

Together they belong to their local club, two county associations, the MnUSA and the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs.

Their love for the sport and their desire to see it improved and promoted is endless. In addition to the above, they have devoted many hours of their time and talents on other committees and programs to further the sport. Their passion and dedication to snowmobiling have now earned them even more recognition as inductees into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. Bob and Marie are being inducted into the Hall of Fame as a couple.



**Jerry Wanty**

Jerry took a 1969 Johnson in trade for his carpenter services and has been an avid snowmobiler ever since.

He has started clubs, been a leader in county and state associations, trail developer, officer and director in numerous other snowmobile organizations and a co-founder of the Antique Snowmobile Club of America (ASCOA), his true passion.

Jerry served as a Director of the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) for 19 years representing his county.

He spent 24 years producing the county's snowmobile trail map. Jerry ran the Badger State Games Torch Run for MS, was instrumental in organizing the ISC Convention in Wisconsin in 1992, inducted into the Iron Dog Brigade in 1992 and has spent 20+ years filming and videotaping the AWSC conventions and workshops.

Perhaps Jerry's biggest love is preserving the heritage of the sport through the preservation of the older snowmobiles that started the sport. He holds membership #4 in the Antique Snowmobile Club of American which he helped found in 1976. He served as Vice-President of the club for 11 years.

Honors received during these years include Snowmobiler of the Year in 2002 for the AWSC, Jake Woecker Distinguished Service Award from the ASCOA in 1999 and the President's Cup from the AWSC in 2013.

A very accomplished home wine maker, Jerry contributes cases of his award winning creations to many snowmobile raffles and charities.



## It's not too early to start thinking about next year!

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual "Iron Dog Winter Get Together"

Dear Iron Dog Members:

Winter will be here before you know it! We are taking this opportunity to get a head start on our 24th annual "Iron Dog Winter Get Together" at the Holiday Inn in West Yellowstone.

Most of the events this year will be held at the Grizzly Lounge, Three Bear Lodge Restaurant and Three Bear Conference Room. Please note these changes in your itinerary.

Yellowstone Tour and Travel will be handling reservations again this year. This seems to eliminate some of the confusion at the time of check in at the hotel. A reservation form for you to fill out and return has been included with this newsletter. Please note the payments and the cancellations on this form. The phone number is 1-800-221-1151 if you have any questions please contact Tracie.

The trip this year is planned for January 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2014. The length of your stay can vary, however the dates above have been set-aside in our reservation system.

Carole and I look forward to hosting you this 2014 year at the West Yellowstone Holiday Inn and Three Bear Lodge for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual "Iron Dog Winter Get Together"! If you have any questions about the package please call Yellowstone Tour and Travel at 1-800-221-1151.

Sincerely,  
Bill and Carole Howell

#### Midwest Ride

We be hosted in Caledonia, MN in January 2014.  
Details are still being worked on.

#### Northeast Ride

No set plans as of this Dog Tag issue, please contact Jim Holbrook @ [rtcatman@yahoo.com](mailto:rtcatman@yahoo.com) if you are interested in having a ride. Best time would be the first week of March.

#### ISC 2014

Keystone Resort & Conference Center  
Keystone, Colorado  
June 11-14, 2014

[www.isc2014.com](http://www.isc2014.com)

Check out the Iron Dog website @ [www.irondogbrigade.com](http://www.irondogbrigade.com)